

all seas and countries, with a breezy and informal descriptive text, in this book of 130 pages, which is sold for \$1.00. We are informed that a second edition is in preparation, in which errors which found their way into this one are to be corrected. A book for beginners in shell collecting.—H.A.P.

THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST TERTIARY PECTINIDAE OF THE UNITED STATES. By H. I. Tucker. American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 17, March, 1936. 4 plates. A revision based upon materials in all the type collections in this country and abroad. As the pectins are important "Leitfossilien," this thorough and reliable work will be much used and appreciated.—H.A.P.

"BASTERIA," A NEW JOURNAL OF MALACOLOGY.—The Netherlands Malacological Society initiated on February 1, 1936, a new journal under the title of "Basteria." Each volume is to be published in four parts, the volume to coincide as nearly as possible with the calendar year. Papers will be published mainly in Dutch, with a brief summary in another language. Its scope will be wide, embracing the entire field of malacology in all of its biological aspects, as well as general papers on taxonomy. Subscription to the journal (2.50 florins) should be sent to Dr. F. P. Koumans, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands.—W. J. Clench.

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### THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL UNION

One of the most delightful gatherings in the history of the American Malacological Union was the sixth annual meeting held in St. Petersburg, Florida, from Tuesday through Friday, April 21 to 24, 1936. The Detroit Hotel in this famed "Sunshine City" was headquarters for the convention and in its pleasant halls all sessions were held. Thirty-three members were in attendance as well as many local shell lovers. The meeting was opened on Tuesday morning with addresses of welcome by the Hon. John S. Smith, mayor of the city, M. M. Deaderick, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Roy Hanna, vice president of the Pinellas Institute of Natural Sciences, D. L. Emery, president of the St.

Petersburg Shell Club, and Capt. W. A. Read, at whose invitation the meeting was held in this city. Calvin Goodrich, president of the Union, responded and the presentation of scientific papers followed.

The first of these was by Junius Henderson, entitled, "Is Concealing Coloration Important to Molluscan Life?" A paper by Dr. A. Myra Keen of Stanford University on "The Status of the Family Cardiidae" was read by Dr. J. P. E. Morrison, and completed the first session. Mr. Joshua L. Baily, Jr., in his paper, "The Stabilization of Scientific Nomenclature," read in the afternoon, made a plea for the appointment by the Union of a committee of experts to pass on questions of nomenclature, asking that the subject be discussed and considered at a later date. Dr. Paul Bartsch spoke on "The Intermediate Hosts of the Asiatic Blood Fluke," illustrating his subject with lantern slides. "The Evolution of Genus *Liguus* in Florida" was the topic presented by Henry G. Frampton, of Miami. A beautifully arranged series of these shells illustrated the talk, giving a graphic view of the relationships of the forms.

The evening lecture was given by Dr. Henry A. Pilsbry on "Three Naturalists in Mexico." This was illustrated with lantern slides and was a delightful account of Dr. Pilsbry's experiences during two summers spent in studying and collecting mollusks in northern Mexico.

Reading of papers was concluded on Wednesday. Dr. Carlos de la Torre was the first speaker. His subject, "A Revision of the Cuban Genus *Polymita*," was illustrated with a large series of 2,800 shells of this beautiful and variable mollusk, arranged in 28 glass-covered trays. At the suggestion of Dr. Pilsbry, a resolution was passed recommending the publication by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, of Dr. de la Torre's studies and the splendid color plates with which it was also illustrated.

At the afternoon session several papers were presented. Dr. A. La Rocque, of the National Museum of Canada, read a paper on "A Plan for the Study of Canadian Mollusca." Dr. J. P. E. Morrison, of the United States National Museum, spoke on "Growth Rings and Size of Shells," illustrating his paper with charts. "Shell Collecting in Florida" was the subject of a short talk by

D. L. Emery, of St. Petersburg. Mrs. Ida S. Oldroyd, of Stanford University, spoke briefly on "An Interesting Oyster from the Olympian Beds." The shell in question was exhibited. Dr. Bartsch read a paper prepared jointly with Dr. Harald A. Rehder, of the United States National Museum, on "Recent and Fossil Pelecypod Fauna of the Hawaiian Islands" illustrated with lantern slides. This gave the results of studies on Mr. D. Thaanum's collection which had been given to the Smithsonian Institution. "The American Genus *Oreohelix*" by Prof. Henderson, illustrated with lantern slides, concluded the formal papers. The evening session was given over to informal talks. Dr. Frank Smith, of the University of Illinois, spoke delightfully on "Earthworms," a subject in which he is a recognized authority. Miss Anne Harbison, of Philadelphia, gave an interesting account of her work with Dr. Pilsbry on fossil shells. Calvin Goodrich told of his having been an amateur in the field of molluscan study for many years before he became professional, when he retired from teaching and took up museum work. Walter F. Webb, of Rochester, N. Y., and Capt. Read also contributed interesting remarks on experiences in their pursuit of conchology.

On Thursday morning the members left the Detroit Hotel at 10 o'clock for an auto trip to Tarpon Springs. Here they were met by Mr. E. Macrenaris, veteran sponge diver, who gave a history of the Greek sponge industry in Tarpon Springs, which boasts the largest sponge fishing fleet and the largest sponge exchange in the world. Lunch at the Green Garden Restaurant and visits to numerous curio shops followed, then a tour of the Gulf beaches to collect shells with a return to the hotel in time for the annual dinner. Dr. Paul Bartsch presided in the absence of the president, Calvin Goodrich, who was obliged to leave early to return to Michigan.

A business session followed the dinner. It was decided to accept with pleasure the invitation extended through Mr. Goodrich to hold the meeting next year in the University of Michigan. Dr. Carlos de la Torre invited the Union to meet in Havana in 1938. This invitation also was unanimously and enthusiastically accepted. Harold R. Robertson of Buffalo was delegated to draft a resolution to be presented to the Carnegie Institution of Wash-

ington asking that they consider the preparation and publication of a biography of the late William Healey Dall. Capt. W. A. Read then was presented with a book containing the autographs of all members in attendance at the sixth annual meeting in token of their appreciation of his invitation to St. Petersburg and his untiring efforts to make the meeting the success which it had been.

After calling on various speakers and the passing of a resolution of appreciation to be sent to the mayor of St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, the local press, the St. Petersburg Shell Club and the Detroit Hotel management and personnel, Dr. Bartsch asked that before adjournment the assembled company bow their heads for a few moments in silence in memory of those valiant souls who have gone, among them William Healey Dall, John B. Henderson, Charles Torrey Simpson and Victor Sterki.

On Friday the visitors were guests of Capt. Read on his yacht *Casanova*, visiting Shell Island, a favorite haunt of shell collectors, a delightful two hours' distance from St. Petersburg across the waters of Tampa Bay. Returning to the city in the evening farewells were said and the sixth annual meeting had passed into history.

Council for the ensuing year was elected as follows: Honorary Presidents: Ida S. Oldroyd, Stanford University, and Henry A. Pilsbry, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; President, Joshua L. Baily, Jr., San Diego, California; vice-president, Carlos de la Torre, University of Havana, Cuba; corresponding secretary, Norman W. Lermond, Knox Academy of Arts and Sciences, Thomaston, Maine; financial secretary, Imogene C. Robertson, Buffalo Museum of Science. Other members of the Council: Paul Bartsch, United States National Museum, Calvin Goodrich, University of Michigan, William J. Clench, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., Junius Henderson, University of Colorado.

IMOGENE C. ROBERTSON,  
*Financial Secretary.*